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Norman Cross
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District
during the year 1940.

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To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, .

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

The practice whereby the Report is drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health has been adhered to as in the previous year's issue.

The normal peace time work has been, as far as circumstances permitted, carried out as usual but in consequence of pressure of work arising from additional duties placed upon the Authority, less time has been available to devote to it, and the routine work has been somewhat curtailed.

The decision of the Council towards the close of 1939 to make available to the Public free immunisation against Diphtheria was a commendable action, which proved to be anticipation of what was later recognised as a nation-wide requirement and undertaking.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health D. S. BUCHANAN, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector H. W. HAWKINS, A.R.S.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Area | 35795 acres |
| Estimated Population (mid 1940) | 7860 |
| (mid 1939) | 7299 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1939 | 2182 |
| Rateable Value | £28,707 |
| Value of Penny Rate | £118-10-8 |

The Norman Cross Rural District consists of 16 parishes, a number of which are situated on the extensive deposit of Oxford Clay which forms the Fletton Brickfields in which a great many inhabitants of the district find employment.

With this exception the population is solely employed in agriculture. The South Western portion of the district is Fen Lands, land recovered by an extensive drainage system some fifty years ago, from what was formerly Whittlesea Mere.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| LIVE BIRTHS | TOTAL | M. | F. |
|--------------|-----------|--|----|
| Legitimate | 121 | 65 | 56 |
| Illegitimate | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| | <hr/> 125 | Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.9 | |
| STILL BIRTHS | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| | | Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births 53.0 | |
| DEATHS | 106 | 49 | 57 |
| | | Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.4 | |
| | | Death Rate adjusted 13.2 | |

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

| | Deaths | Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births |
|-------------------------------|--------|---|
| No. 29 Puerperal sepsis | — | — |
| No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes | — | — |
| Total | Nil | Nil |

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:--

| | |
|---|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 24.0 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 24.7 |
| Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ „ | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 18 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | 2 |

RATES

| | Per 1,000 Population | | | Per 1,000 Live Births |
|--|----------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | Live Births | Still Births | Death Rate | Infantile Mortality |
| Norman Cross R.D.C. | 15.9 | 0.89 | 13.2 | 24 |
| England & Wales | 14.6 | 0.55 | 14.3 | 55 |
| London (Adm. County) | 13.7 | 0.44 | 17.8 | 50 |
| 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London | 16.0 | 0.64 | 15.8 | 61 |
| 148 Smaller Towns | 15.7 | 0.55 | 12.8 | 54 |

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Males | Females | Totals |
|---|-------|---------|--------|
| All Causes. | 49 | 57 | 106 |
| 1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 Cerebro-spinal fever | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 Scarlet Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 Whooping Cough | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 7 Other forms of Tuberculosis | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 Syphilitic diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 Influenza | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 Ac. Polio myel. & polio enceph | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 Acute Inf. enceph. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 Cancer of buc. cav. & oesph & uter. | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 14 Cancer of stomach & duodenum | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 15 Cancer of Breast | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 16 Cancer of all other sites | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 17 Diabetes | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 18 Intra. cran: vasc. lesions | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 19 Heart Disease | 7 | 16 | 23 |
| 20 Other diseases of circulatory system | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 21 Bronchitis | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 22 Pneumonia | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 23 Other respiratory diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 Diarrhoea under 2 years | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 26 Appendicitis | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 Other digestive diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 Nephritis | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 29 Puerperal & post abort. sepsis | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 Other maternal causes | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 Premature birth, | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 32 Con. mal; birth inj; inft. dis. | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 33 Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 Road traffic Accidents | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 35 Other violent causes | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 36 All other causes | 9 | 13 | 22 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities :**

Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Under the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Scheme, specimens may be sent for Bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities :—**

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases excellent provision is made by Peterborough City Authority and London Brick Company.

A further ambulance is now available to meet the requirements of the district by the provision of an ambulance by the Hunts. County Council. This ambulance is stationed at Stilton.

(c) **Nursing in the Home :—**

Nursing in the district is carried on by the District Nursing Associations under the supervision of the County Council. The nurses employed carry out the general nursing in the district, attend the majority of maternity cases and act as Health Visitors.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres:—

The Hunts. County Council provide the following health services:—

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|---|
| School Clinic (Minor Ailment) | .... | Welfare Centre, London Road, Old Fletton, Every Wenesday 9-30—12. |
| Eyes | ..... | Consultant's Rooms. By Appt. |
| Dental Clinic | ..... | Welfare Centre, London Road, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 9-30—12. 1-30—4. |
| Tuberculosis | | High Street, Old Fletton, Monthly 2nd Wednesday 1-30—4 |
| Orthopaedic | .... | Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at 2-30 p.m. By Appt. |
| Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic..... | | Memorial Hospital every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt. |
| Venereal Diseases | .... | 28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough. Men—Tuesday and Friday 6—8 p.m. Women—Tuesday and Friday 3-30—6 p.m. |

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or more often when necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary:—

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.
- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital continues to carry out the general hospital service in the district. At this hospital facilities for In-patient and Out-patient treatment of General Medical or Surgical Cases are available.

(3) **Maternity Hospital :—**

Provision is made for the reception of all Maternity cases occurring among evacuated women in the district in the Emergency Maternity Hospital established by the Huntingdon County Council at Paxton Park. Under special conditions resident women and also women not evacuated under the Government Evacuation Scheme are admitted to this hospital for their confinement.

The original provision in the hospital at the Huntingdon Institution, for cases in which home conditions are not suitable, is still available. In addition cases are still admitted to the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, when complications make it necessary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water :—

The extension of the Alwalton-Chesterton water main to supply water to Elton, which was in progress in the latter part of 1939 has been completed. With the completion of this scheme the majority of the parishes are now supplied by a mains supply although in a good number of cases wells are still in use where this supply exists. It is hoped, however, that in such instances connections will be made to the Public mains and so replace the supply from wells.

Samples from the water supply are taken regularly and forwarded to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological analysis. All reports have been of a satisfactory nature.

Drainage and Sewerage :—

Conditions are unchanged. No additional work in connection with sewerage has been carried out in the past year.

Of the many schemes placed in abeyance in consequence of present conditions, those in connection with the development of sewerage schemes in Yaxley, Farcet and Orton Longueville will call for further consideration at an early date after the return to normal conditions.

Housing :—

As a result of the present day conditions, housing activities of any magnitude have been placed in abeyance. During the year one new house was erected by private enterprise.

All complaints have been duly investigated and the appropriate action taken. On no occasion during the year was it found necessary to resort to legal action.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**Milk Supply :**

There are 75 registered cowkeepers in the district. The cowsheds and dairies were regularly inspected, many of the inspections being made during the process of milking. The conditions were found to be satisfactory.

The standard of milk supplied in the district is good, but in common with many other districts there was some shortage during the last quarter of the year.

Meat:—

There are 10 slaughterhouses in the district, all of which are registered, but under the existing regulations of meat control these are not in use.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Total No. of Inspections made | 278 |
| „ „ „ Notices served | 19 |
| (Informal 18 Statutory 1) | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Complaints received | Total No. of | 19 |
| Premises, houses, etc. | No. inspected | 278 |
| | Nuisances abated | 21 |
| Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse | No. inspected | 1 |
| | Nuisances abated | 1 |
| Animals improperly kept | No. inspected | Nil |
| | Nuisances abated | Nil |
| Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit | No. inspected | 18 |
| | § § Nuisances abated | 4 |
| Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc. | No. inspected | 248 |
| | Nuisances abated | 7 |
| House, or part thereof, overcrowded | No. inspected | Nil |
| | Nuisances abated | Nil |
| Smoke nuisances | No. of observations | Nil |
| | Nuisances abated | Nil |
| Offensive accumulations | No. inspected | 2 |
| | Nuisances abated | 2 |
| Other sanitary conditions | No. inspected | 278 |
| | Nuisances abated | 19 |
| Slaughter houses | No. licensed or registered | 10 |
| | No. of inspections ... | 14 |
| Offensive trades (Health Act 1936) | No. established | Nil |
| | No. of inspections | Nil |
| Public Health Act, 1936 | No. houses condemned | Nil |
| | No. closed | Nil |
| | No. cleaned and limewashed | |
| Food—seizures of unwholesome | No. of | Nil |

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| Infectious Disease | Houses affected with | |
| | S.F. Diph Typhoid | } 24 |
| | Erysipelas | |
| | Houses inspected | 24 |
| | No. of inspections | 24 |
| | Houses disinfected | 24 |
| | Schools | Nil |
| | Disinfectant used | Formalin |
| | Lots of clothing disinfected | Nil |
| | „ „ destroyed | Nil |
| Privy Middens | New provided | Nil |
| | No. repaired | 3 |
| | No. converted to pails | 1 |
| | No. converted to W.C's | Nil |
| Pail or Earth Closets | †New provided | 2 |
| | No. converted to W.C's | Nil |
| Water closets | †New provided | 3 |
| | No. supplied with water | 3 |
| Ashbins | †New provided | Nil |
| | Samples taken for analysis | 10 |
| * Water supply | „ condemned | 2 |
| | Wells closed | 1 |
| | Wells cleansed, repaired, etc. | Nil |
| | Public supply substituted for well or pond | 1 |
| | Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered | 2 |
| | Waste pipes disconnected from drain | Nil |
| | Housing, etc., Act, 1936 | |
| | No. houses closed | Nil |
| | „ „ made habitable | Nil |
| | „ „ demolished | Nil |
| Building Bye Laws adopted | | 15/7/39 |
| Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc. | | Nil |
| Convictions | | Nil |

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1937.

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|--|-----|
| Factories | ..... | ..... | Total number on register (including bakehouses).... | 33 |
| | | | No. in which nuisances abated | 1 |
| Bakehouses | .. | .... | No. on register | 9 |
| | | | No. in which nuisance abated | Nil |
| Home Work | .... | .... | No. of outworkers | Nil |
| | | | No. of Houses..... | Nil |
| | | | No. of infected houses | Nil |
| Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc. | ..... | ..... |  | Nil |
| | | | Convictions | Nil |

H. W. HAWKINS,
Sanitary Inspector.

* Being particulars of *Nuisances abated* (§§) on previous sheet.

†To include those converted from Privy Middens.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

There was no change during the year in the diseases compulsorily notifiable under the Notification Acts and Regulations. Measles was prevalent during the whole year and accounted for 82% of the total number of cases of infectious diseases.

Scabies, a disease practically unknown in the district in normal times, made its appearance and affected chiefly the school children. It was undoubtedly introduced by the evacuees.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1940.

| DISEASE | Age Group | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL | under 1 year | Cases admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|---|-------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | 1 — 2 | 2 — 3 | 3 — 4 | 4 — 5 | 5 — 10 | 10 — 15 | 15 — 20 | 20 — 35 | 35 — 45 | 45 — 65 | 65 & upwards | | | | | |
| Smallpox | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 9 | — | 5 | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | 11 | — | 11 | — |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 8 | — | — | — |
| Measles | 14 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 155 | 39 | 6 | 2 | 6 | — | — | — | 300 | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 33 | 4 | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Following the preparatory work in connection with a scheme for mass immunisation against Diphtheria which was completed towards the close of 1939, an intensive drive was commenced in the early part of 1940. Schools were used as enquiry bureaux and immunisation centres. The Head Teachers in the district willingly co-operated and gave all assistance within their power to make the scheme successful. Some difficulties were experienced while working in these school immunisation centres — buildings never intended for such work and consequently not equipped with the essentials for clinical work of this type. Most of these difficulties however had been anticipated and with some improvising were largely overcome. The prophylactic preparation used was Parke Davis A.P.T. The method adopted was an initial sensitising dose followed after an interval by the main injection.

The following table summarises the number of children treated up to the close of the year :—

| | RESIDENT CHILDREN | | EVACUEES | |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| | Complete | 1st. injection only | Complete | 1st. injection only |
| Over 5 yrs. | 407 | 19 | 103 | 8 |
| Under 5 yrs. | 26 | 4 | — | — |

Tuberculosis.

| AGE PERIODS | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 25 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 35 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| 45 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 & upwards .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL:- | 3 | 3 | — | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | — |

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

